

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/566,986
Amendment filed May 17, 2007
Reply to OA dated February 23, 2007

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the present invention. As now specified, Claim 1 is to a wire harness excessive length absorbing device that has a case, with a base wall, front wall, rear wall, pair of side walls and a cover, for receiving a wire harness and an inlet formed in a side wall adjacent the rear wall, and an outlet formed in the rear wall for the wire harness. An urging member is provided for urging the wire harness toward an inside of the case, and a harness roller provided about which the wire harness is rolled in a U-shape, the harness roller reciprocally moving under acting force of the urging member. A harness guide is mounted on the outlet formed in the rear wall and is curved toward the inlet for guiding the harness to the outside of the case, such that the wire harness is pulled into the case from the harness inlet and turned in the U-shape about the wire harness roller and further turned by the harness guide and pulled out of the case. Such a device is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Doshita (U.S. 6,575,760), newly cited, and Claim 3 was rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of that reference. In view of the present amendments to Claim 1 and the following remarks, reconsideration and removal of those rejections are respectfully requested.

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In the Office Action, Fig. 13 of Doshita et al. is referred to as showing a device that has a case with a base wall, front wall, rear wall, pair of side walls and a cover, for receiving a wire harness having an inlet formed in a side wall adjacent the rear wall, and an outlet formed in the rear wall for the wire harness, an urging member (85) for urging the wire harness toward an inside of the case, and a harness roller (88) on which the wire harness is rolled, the harness roller reciprocally moving under acting force of the urging member. A harness guide is said to be mounted on the outlet and curved toward the inlet for guiding the harness to the outside of the case.

With respect to Claims 2 and 4, the Office Action alleges that Doshita shows a harness guide curved in the same direction of the wire harness being rolled on the harness roller and an outlet disposed in a direction perpendicular to that of an inlet. With respect to Claim 3, it is alleged that a radius of a corner of the harness guide is formed equal to or larger than a thickness of the case and, if not specifically, such a feature would be obvious.

Applicant does not believe the device (85) alleged in the Office Action as urging the harness toward the inside of the case does so. In Fig. 13, (85) is an elastic member which is bent by the wire harness but does not urge the wire harness toward the inside of the case. Also, the device (88) is not a roller about which the wire harness is rolled but rather is a bending limiting wall having a curved shape.

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Applicant has amended Claim 1 to provide that the wire harness is rolled “about” the roller “in a U-shape” to further distinguish over the bending limiting wall of Doshita. Also, clarifying language has been added at the end of the claim to provide “such that the wire harness is pulled into the case from the harness inlet and turned in a U-shape about the wire harness roller and further turned by the harness guide and pulled out of the case”. This is clearly supported at page 10, lines 13 - 17 of the specification, and nowhere found in the reference..

In addition, contrary to the allegations in the Office Action, the device (88) does not reciprocally move under action of any urging member but is a bending limiting wall supported from inside by securing pieces (97) which increase the bending rigidity of the wall (88). This cannot be equated to reciprocation.

In view of the present amendments to Claim 1 and the above remarks, Claims 1-4 are believed to be patentable and early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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